

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2477

ANSWERED ON:16.08.2004

CONFERENCE ON CONSERVATION OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS

Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba

**Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:**

- (a) the number of times a National Conference of the Ministers of Environment and Forests were held during the last two years and current year upto July 31, 2004 to discuss issues relating to protection, conservation and development of forests and improvement of the environment;
- (b) the outcome of each meeting;
- (c) whether unscrupulous elements have constructed buildings or jungle lodge in the name of eco tourism and for religious purposes in many States;
- (d) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto; and
- (e) the measures taken by the Government to protect, conserve and develop forests and to improve environment?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

- (a) During the period of last two years (2002 and 2003) and current year upto July 31, 2004, the National Conference of Forests Ministers was held only once on 22nd & 23rd July, 2002 at New Delhi.
- (b) In the Conference held in July, 2002, it was resolved to consolidate and expand the Joint Forest Management programme by covering all the forest fringe villages. Emphasis was also laid on implementation of National Afforestation Programme through Forest Development Agency (FDA) mechanism. It was also decided to give a push to the role of National Green Corp in creation of awareness and mass support in conservation of environment.
- (c) No such activity by unscrupulous elements in forest areas has come to the notice of the Ministry.
- (d) Does not arise.
- (e) The Government of India is taking following measures for the protection, conservation and development of forests:
  - I. Financial assistance is provided under various centrally sponsored forestry and wildlife schemes for the protection and conservation of forests and wildlife.
  - II. Creation of network of protected areas i.e. Wildlife National Parks, Sanctuaries, Conservation Reserves and Community Reserves.
  - III. Involvement of local communities in protection, conservation and management of forests through the process of Joint Forest Management.
  - IV. Management of forest areas through the system of working plans which are approved by central Government.
  - V. Afforestation of degraded land under National Afforestation Programme through the system of Forest Development Agencies and Joint Forest Management Committees.
  - VI. Harvesting of trees from Government Forest Land only through the agency of State Forest Departments/ Forest development Corporations.
  - VII. Action against offenders of illicit felling by the State Governments.